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Living Plants and their Properties.¹ — These essays were read, on various occasions within the last few years, to audiences as diverse as the Linnean Society of London and "The Parlor Club, an organization devoted to literary and scientific culture, Lafayette, Indiana," or else were published in magazines, bulletins of agricultural experiment stations, etc.

The preface expresses the hope that this volume will arouse a more general interest in the phases of botany treated. The reviewer fears that the general reader will be discouraged by two qualities common to the majority of the essays. First, the number of undefined technical terms, familiar enough to botanists, but rather appalling to others, and of Latin generic names, unaccompanied by any suggestion as to the family of the plants spoken of, is unfortunately large. Second, the absence of definite conclusions concisely summed up at the end of discussions.

If so much adverse criticism may be brought against the book, much may, on the other hand, be said in its favor. The authors are professional botanists, know what they are talking about, and have the faculty of saying things attractively. More than this, in treating physiological subjects and problems, they consistently indicate the fundamental identity of the functions of animals and plants, and show that this is due to their having the same living substance as the physical basis of their existence. The elucidation and the understanding of any function of a plant is greatly facilitated by a comparison with the much more familiar expression of the same function in man or in some other animal; but it does not necessarily follow, as is well stated in the essay on the special senses of plants, that all the advantage is on one side. When animal and plant physiologists realize that they have common problems which they can best work out together, they will be as helpful to each other as the animal and plant cytologists have been and still are; and together they will be more effective in advancing knowledge than when the one cleaves only to muscles and the other to roots.

GEORGE J. PEIRCE.

A New Botanical Journal. — The following preliminary announcement of a new periodical has just been received:

The New England Botanical Club is considering the publication of a monthly journal, to begin January 1, 1899. It is to be an octavo of about

¹ *Living Plants and their Properties.* A collection of essays by Joseph Charles Arthur, Sc.D., and Daniel Trembly MacDougal, Ph.D. New York, Baker and Taylor, 8vo, 242 pp., 30 pls., and figures.